S.No.	Name of the Bank	No. of Employees
5.	State Bank of Patiala	7,056
6.	State Bank of Saurashtra	4,456
7.	State Bank of Travancore	8,272

(c) Representations have been received by the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur and State Bank of Indore from some of their employees.

(d) and (e) According to State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, their 11 employees had represented that though they submitted their pension options in time but the same were not received/recorded at Pension Cell of the Head Office. The bank have reported to have informed the concerned employees that as their pension options were not received in time, no action could be taken as per Pension Regulations.

State Bank of Indore have reported that consent letters for pension of their 14 employees were inadvertently no forwarded by the concerned branches to the Head Office in time. The Board of Trustees of Pension Fund of the Bank at their meeting held on 28.7.2000 have approved acceptance of the pension options of the said 14 employees.

IIDC and Growth Centre of NER as tax free zone

3185. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the federation of Industries of the NER represented to Government for redressal of grievances of certain existing industries in the NER as well as about the requirement of some changes in the taxation and other parameters of the new industrial policy for the region;

(b) if so, the response of Government and action contemplated on each of their suggestions;

(c) whether coverage of industries outside the IIDC and Growth Centre of the NER would be considered eligible for tax free zones; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) The Ministry of Finance received a number of representations, including representations from chambers of Commerce as part of the budget exercise. The Ministry also received suggestions relating to benefits under the Income tax for the North-Eastern regions.

(b) The suggestions notably related to extension of tax holiday benefits under Section 10A and 10B to the North-Eastern region and the withdrawal of application of Minimum Alternate Tax provisions to the corporates set up in North Eastern Region. The response of the Government was contained in Government amendments moved to the Finance Bill, 2000.

(c) Under section 10C, units set up in IIDCs and Growth Centres alone are entitled for tax holiday. However, under separate provisions of section 80 IB, tax holidays are available to new units in specified industries set up anywhere in the North Eastern Region.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

Allegations against Chairman, U.B. Group

3186. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 506 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th February, 2000 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, United Breweries, Group has since appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for alleged violation of FERA;

(b) if so, what are the details of the allegations for which the Chairman, U.B. Group is being interrogated; and

(c) what is the present stage of progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been alleged that in January, 1996, M/S United Breweries Ltd., Bangalore, had made a commitment of U.S. $ 3 million for making payment of sponsorship fee to MILD SEVEN BENETTON RENAULT TEAM of U.K.